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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

ECHMIADZIN ORGANIZES TO COUNTERACT VATICAN ACTIVITIES

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

A few days ago, a conference was held at Yerevan under the sponsorship of Echmiadzin. Religious and lay representatives of all the churches in the Armenian SSR as well as three priests from abroad, Yeghishe, Suren, and Norair, who had gone to Echmiadzin to be ordained as bishops, also attended.

The purpose of this conference was to consider ways and means of strengthening the Armenian Apostolic churches abroad and developing their activities to counteract the influence of the Vatican among the dispersed Armenians.(1)

The Vatican has been conducting a campaign among the Armenians in dispersion against the Catholicos of Echmiadzin and the Armenian SSR through Cardinal Aghajanian, the supreme head of the Armenian Catholic church. Cardinal Aghajanian had forbidden Catholic Armenians to return to the Armenian SSR by a white paper issued during the summer of 1951. The Cardinal is planning to visit the Armenian communities in Europe and the US to foster antagonism towards the mother church.(2)

The above-mentioned conference was held in conjunction with the international conference of all Orthodox churches held in Moscow in August under the chairmanship of Patriarch Alexis. There is no doubt that Echmiadzin was compelled to attend this conference as a church controlled by Moscow and that the meeting held in Yerevan was a outcome of the decision reached at Moscow.(3)

SOURCES

1. Beirut, Zartonk, 10 Aug 51
2. Beirut, Aztarar, 10 Aug 51
3. Cairo, Housaper, 18 Aug 51

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